

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action, the examiner finally rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103(a) for obviousness over Bradley et al. '071 in view of Hayakawa '993. Applicants request reconsideration of their application in view of this response.

Applicants respectfully submit that the examiner has mischaracterized both Bradley et al. and Hayakawa in order to support the final rejection of Claims 1-7. Applicants can demonstrate this by addressing the examiner's statements in order, starting with Bradley et al.

First, the examiner states that Bradley et al. discloses a mirrored shaft 114 including two or more mirrored elements mutually spaced along the axis of the shaft, and diversely angled with respect to the aperture field of the imaging device, simply quoting from rejected Claim 1. But the examiner's statement is false. The shaft 114 supports one, and only one, mirror element -- the steering mirror 64. As noted at column 9, line 53 et seq., the steering mirror includes a carrying plate that is "fixedly mounted to the shaft" 114, and a reflective surface 110 "bonded to the plate 112". There is no other mirror element affixed to the shaft 114. As shown in FIGS. 4-5, the shaft 114 is coupled to another shaft 126 by a timing belt 98, but no mirror elements are affixed to the shaft 126. Aside from steering mirror 64, Bradley et al. disclose only one other movable mirror -- flip mirror 86. Referring to column 7, line 43 et seq., and column 9, line 8 et seq., the flip mirror 86 includes a mounting plate 84 "pivotably mounted to housing 42 by a mounting shaft 88", and a mirror 86 affixed to the mounting plate 84. A solenoid and connecting arm assembly (90, 92, 94) is coupled to the shaft 88 to rotate the shaft 88 (and flip mirror 86) to first or second angular positions; and the alternate positions of mirror 86 are illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3. Clearly and obviously, the flip mirror 86 is moved independent of the steering mirror 64, and vice versa. In no way do mirrors 64 and 86 constitute or approximate "two or more mirrored elements mutually spaced along the axis of the shaft".

Second, the examiner states that Bradley et al. disclose drive means including an electric motor for producing linear displacement of said mirrored shaft along said axis to

change the view presented to said imaging device as the different diversely angled mirror elements are brought into alignment with the aperture field of said imaging device, again simply quoting from rejected Claim 1. And again, the examiner's statement is false.

Bradley et al. disclose a motor 108 and gearbox 116 coupled to drive the shaft 114 (to which is affixed the steering mirror 64), but the shaft displacement produced in Bradley et al. is clearly and obviously rotational, and not linear. While the rotational displacement of shaft 114 does change the view presented to the imaging device (as described in detail at column 10, lines 16-50), it clearly and obviously does not bring different diversely angled mirror elements into alignment with the aperture field of said imaging device, as required by rejected Claim 1. As demonstrated above, one and only one mirror element is affixed to (or controlled by) the shaft 114.

In respect to Hayakawa, the examiner states that the mirrored shaft 26 is linearly displaced to present different views to the imaging device. But as pointed out in Applicants' previous communication, the mirrored shaft 26 merely shifts the position of a single image (see, for example, column 9, lines 18-30) -- it does not present a different view to an imaging device.

For the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that no combination of Bradley et al. and Hayakawa obviate the invention of rejected Claim 1 under 35 USC 103(a). Even if the examiner's position in regard to Hayakawa is taken a face value, no combination of Bradley et al. and Hayakawa teach or suggest a "mirrored shaft including two or more mirror elements affixed to said shaft, said mirror elements being mutually spaced along the axis of said shaft, and diversely angled with respect to the aperture field of said imaging device to define different predefined views of a scene" and "drive means including an electric motor for producing linear displacement of said mirrored shaft along said axis to change the view presented to said imaging device as the different diversely angled mirror elements are brought into alignment with the aperture field of said imaging device". And Claims 2-7 define over the combination of Bradley et al. and Hayakawa at least by virtue of their dependency from Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of Claims 1-7 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn. Claims 1-7 are believed

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to be in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Nayarre".

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